

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JOHANNESBURG 1785

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EINV, SF, US
SUBJECT: BISHOP TUTU OPPOSES FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN SA

REF: JOHANNESBURG 1026

1. ANGLICAN BISHOP DESMOND TUTU, GENERAL SECRETARY OF SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, IS REPORTED IN "RAND DAILY MAIL" JULY 21 AS HAVING SAID IN LONDON JULY 20 THAT THREAT OF JAIL SENTENCE STOPPED MANY BLACKS FROM ESPOUSING FOREIGN DISINVESTMENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN HOLDINGS. IN ADDRESS TO ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY, HE IS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID "THAT IS WHY YOU WON'T HEAR ANYONE SAYING NO INVESTMENT. WE WOULD LIKE TO GO TO PRISON FOR SOMETHING SLIGHTLY BETTER THAN THAT."

2. COMMENT: TUTU'S REMARKS, MADE DEGREE MORE SAFELY ABROAD, MIRROR THOSE OF DR. MOTLANA, CHAIRMAN OF SOWETO COMMITTEE OF TEN, TO CONGEN APRIL 18 ALMOST EXACTLY (REFTEL OF APRIL 21). REFTL STATED MOTLANA SAID "WHAT HE WOULD SAY FOR PUBLICATION
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DIFFERED DIAMETRICALLY FROM WHAT HE WOULD SAY PRIVATELY, NAMELY THAT HE BELIEVED US INTERESTS SHOULD DISINVEST IN RSA. HE AND COLLEAGUES HAD CHECKED LEGAL IMPLICATION OF TAKING THIS STAND PUBLICLY WITH PROMINENT DEFENSE ATTORNEY SHUN CHETTY, WHO HAD TOLD THEM THEY WOULD BE LIABLE TO PROSECUTION BY SAG AND IMPRISONMENT FOR TEN YEARS AT ROBBEN ISLAND. MOTLANA SAID HE WAS NOT AFRAID TO GO TO ROBBEN ISLAND FOR SOME CONCEIVABLE

SERIOUS POLITICAL ACTIVITY, BUT HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO GO TO JAIL FOR SPEAKING OUT ON THIS ISSUE. THEREFORE, HE HAD DECIED TO DISSEMBLE. HIS FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES WERE DOING THE SAME, AND HE BELIEVED MOST POLITICAL ACTIVISTS FELT AS HE DID THAT IT WOULD HELP THEIR CAUSE IF THE US ANNOUNCED AN INVESTMENT EMBARGO." END COMMENT.

3. BALANCE OF ARTICLE AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT: THE BISHOP, A FORMER ANGLICAN DEAN OF JOHANNESBURG, CITED THE SACC CONGRESS RESOLUTION LAST WEEK THAT "FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND LOANS HAVE LARGELY BEEN USED TO MAINTAIN THE PRESENT STATUS QUO." ONLY THE BLIND COULD NOT SEE WHAT THIS MEANT, HE SAID, URGING DIPLOMATIC, POLITICAL, AND ESPECIALLY, ECONOMIC PRESSURE ON THE SA GOVERNMENT. HE REFUTED THE ARGUMENT THAT NEW FOREIGN INVESTMENT WAS DESIRABLE BECAUSE OF ITS BENEFIT TO BLACKS. "WE DO NOT WANT TO HAVE OUR SHACKLES MADE MORE COMFORTABLE. WE WANT THEM REMOVED," HE SAID. INVESTORS IN SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD KNOW THAT "WE ARE GOING TO BE FREE. WE WILL REMEMBER WHO OUR FRIENDS WERE WHEN WE SOUGHT FREEDOM". BISHOP TUTU REPEATED HIS WARNING THAT "IF WE GO ON AS AT PRESENT WE WILL HAVE A BLOODBATH IN SOUTH AFRICA".

"WE WANT FREEDOM NOW AND WE WANT IT REASONABLY PEACEFULLY," BISHOP TUTU SAID. " TO SOUTH AFRICAN WHITES, I SAY: LEASE HEAR BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE. PLEASE LET US STEP BACK FROM THE PRECIPICE. FOR OUR SAKE, FOR YOUR CHILDREN'S SAKE, FOR GOD'S SAKE. "IF JESUS CHRIST CAME TO SOUTH AFRICA AND THE SECURITY POLICE WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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TO ACT AGAINST HIM, THERE WOULD BE SEVERAL WHO SAID "WE DID THINK THERE WAS SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT HIM'," BISHOP TUTU SAID. REPLYING TO A QUESTION HE SAID THAT IF NELSON MANDELA, THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS LEADER JAILED FOR LIFE ON ROBBEN ISLAND, WERE SET FREE, THE LEADERS OF OTHER GROUPS LIKE THE BLACK PEOPLE'S CONVENTION AND THE SA STUDENTS ORGANISATION WOULD STEP DOWN. "THEY HAVE CONSTANTLY SAID OUR REAL LEADERS ARE ON THE ISLAND," HE SAID. END TEXT. JOHNSON

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